

# The Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2004

### Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

#### **Present:**

Blanchard, Richard  
Gaskill, Jim (Chair)  
Mitchell, Dean (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)  
Perkins, Ernie  
Potts, Dan  
Proctor, Travis  
Sanslow, Terry  
Sorensen, Ryan (Secretary)  
Staley, John



### Old Business

#### **2004 Chukar/Guzzler Study Status**

Studies are underway in the Central and Northern Regions. Chukars have been using guzzlers for the past three weeks. Brood sizes are larger in comparison to last year. Habitat and insect availability has improved as well.

#### **2004 Sharp-tailed Grouse and Sage-Grouse lek Count Report**

Although specific Sharp-tailed lek count numbers increased, Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers were lower resulting from a large area of habitat burned in the Howell Valley Fire. Sharp-tailed Grouse hunting permits will be reduced for this upcoming year from 427 to 348 two-bird permits.

Based on hunter success rates and lek counts, Sage-grouse permits will be increased for the 2004 season.

#### **Federal "Open Fields" Initiative**

There was discussion about the pending federal legislation known as the "Open Fields" Initiative. If passed, the "Open Fields" will provide funds to states for access programs. The committee supports this initiative and Chairman Jim Gaskill has submitted a letter to Utah senators and representatives to support the pending "Open Fields" legislation.

#### **2005-2008 Upland Game Proclamation Discussion**

The current Upland Game Proclamation is being reviewed for suggestions on enhancing or modifying the existing content. Suggestions will be discussed in future Upland Advisory Committee meetings.

#### **Dog Training**

##### **Rule R657-46 The Use of Game Birds in Dog Field Trials and Training**

The regulations pertaining to dog training are up for renewal and will go before the RACs and the Wildlife Board, starting on September 13<sup>th</sup> 2004. Please send comments, suggestions, and changes to Dean Mitchell at [deanmitchell@utah.gov](mailto:deanmitchell@utah.gov)

#### **Pheasants Forever Habitat Specialist Position Update**

The previous funding and deployment arrangements for this project have changed dramatically from original discussions between DWR, NRCS and Pheasants Forever. NRCS has opted to solicit requests

for proposals from agencies and organizations willing to complete Farm Bill work throughout northern Utah. NRCS' request for proposals should be published shortly on the FedGrants web site.

## **New Business**

### **2004 Upland Game Release Strategies**

The Committee supports releases of upland game to enhance existing populations as well as providing hunting opportunities.

### **Invitation to Utah Upland Game Organizations**

The Upland Advisory Committee extends an invitation to all upland game organizations to attend the monthly meetings.

### **Update on Greater Sage-grouse Endangered Species Listing Petitions**

The USFWS determined in a recent 90-day evaluation that the three petitions being reviewed warranted further consideration. There is a December 29, 2004 deadline for final determination of the listing. An excellent website containing a huge volume of useful sage-grouse information and data can be reviewed at: <http://sagemap.wr.usgs.gov>

### **Preparation of a Species Management Plan for the Pheasant in Utah**

The UDWR, in conjunction with the local Pheasants Forever chapters will be preparing a strategic management plan for the Ring-necked Pheasant in Utah. Plan preparation will occur over the next year. This plan will be beneficial for managing resources to enhance the pheasant species in Utah.

## **Upland Game on the Internet**

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

## **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. at the DWR State Office at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City. Future meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity for you to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group – we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an electronic mail input, please send it to one of the following:

Dean Mitchell [deanmitchell@utah.gov](mailto:deanmitchell@utah.gov)  
Jim Gaskill [jhgaskill@weber.edu](mailto:jhgaskill@weber.edu)

Ryan Sorensen [ryan@mybirddog.com](mailto:ryan@mybirddog.com)

Respectfully submitted ...

Ryan Sorensen